

SENATE RESOLUTION 114
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Gayla Tinnell Combs of Coles Ferry Elementary School upon her selection as Wilson County's Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Gayla Tinnell Combs is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Combs, a teacher at Coles Ferry Elementary School, has recently been selected as Wilson County's Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Gayla Combs earned her bachelor's degree in Education from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1972; before becoming a full-time teacher, she served as a teacher in the Metro Nashville Summer Outdoor Education Program, Kindergarten teacher at H.G. Hill Elementary and Ransom Elementary in Nashville, teacher and assistant developer of the Parents' Cooperative Preschool in Killeen, Texas, Kindergarten teacher and Director of Educare Child Care Center in Nashville, substitute and interim teacher for Metro Nashville Schools, Mothers' Day Out program teacher at Donelson Heights United Methodist Church, and teacher for the Metro Nashville Schools' drug and alcohol program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Combs has served with acumen and alacrity as a fourth grade teacher for thirteen exemplary years and as a full-time teacher for fourteen years; during this time, she has inspired the love of learning in many children using hands-on activities, such as cooking, to improve recall by bathing the memory in sights, scents, and tastes; and

WHEREAS, not content to limit her professional involvement to the classroom, Mrs. Combs has participated, as both officer and member, in numerous professional and community organizations at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Combs is no stranger to awards and accolades; she has been the recipient of, among others, four Chamber Grant Awards; a Cable TV Grant; and a Cracker Barrel Teachers Grant for self-directed study of Tennessee History through a tour of historical sites; and

WHEREAS, Gayla Tinnell Combs is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Combs truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; Gayla Combs's pleasant demeanor and passion for every child to learn and achieve success in her classroom translates into a environment in which she sets the stage for learning and then delights in watching as it flames forth; and

WHEREAS, Gayla Tinnell Combs truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mrs. Gayla Tinnell Combs of Coles Ferry Elementary School upon being chosen as Wilson County's Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee as a dedicated teacher, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.